

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): An electronic camera
2 comprising:
3 a plurality of detectors which are provided
4 corresponding to a position of a hand holding the camera
5 during an image pickup ~~respectively at different positions,~~
6 each of which detectors being adapted to detect contact or
7 approach of a hand to make an image pickup operation;
8 a mode setup unit which sets up a stand-by mode in
9 which an image pickup device can commence an image pickup
10 operation immediately in response to a release instruction,
11 wherein the stand-by mode is set, a preliminary operation
12 for image pickup can be entered even if a shutter release
13 switch is not pressed; and
14 an image pickup controller which controls the camera
15 to perform a preliminary operation for image pickup if both
16 the stand-by mode is set by the mode setup unit all of the
17 plurality of detectors detect the contact or approach of a
18 hand, wherein the preliminary operation can commence even
19 if a shutter release switch is not pressed.

1 Claim 2 (previously presented): A camera according to
2 claim 1, further comprising mode holding means using a
3 non-volatile memory, which holds a setup state of the
4 stand-by mode set by the mode setup unit even during a
5 power-off period.

1 Claim 3 (previously presented): A camera according to
2 claim 1, further comprising a mode release unit which
3 releases the stand-by mode when the stand-by mode is set by

4 the mode setup unit and a period in which at least one of
5 the plurality of detectors does not detect the contact or
6 approach of a hand reaches a predetermined time.

1 Claim 4 (previously presented): A camera according to claim
2 1, further comprising operation controller which renders
3 only a part of the plurality of detectors operational, when
4 the stand-by mode is set by the mode setup unit and a
5 period in which at least one of the plurality of detectors
6 does not detect the contact or approach of a hand reaches a
7 predetermined time.

1 Claim 5 (previously presented): A camera according to
2 claim 1, wherein the plurality of detectors are provided at
3 least at a grip part and proximal to a release button part
4 of a camera body.

1 Claim 6 (original): A camera according to claim 1, wherein
2 the preliminary operation includes at least automatic
3 exposure, automatic focus adjustment, and automatic white
4 balance adjustment.

1 Claim 7 (currently amended): An electronic camera
2 comprising:
3 a detector which is provided near a release button and
4 adapted to detect an approach of a hand to the release
5 button to make an image pickup operation;
6 a main power switch which switches on and off a power
7 source of the camera; and
8 an image pickup controller which executes a
9 preliminary operation for image pickup so that an image
10 pickup operation can occur immediately in response to a

11 release instruction, if both the power switch is set on and
12 the detector detects the approach of a hand, wherein the
13 preliminary operation for image pickup can commence even if
14 a shutter release switch is not pressed.

1 Claim 8 (previously presented): A camera according to
2 claim 1, wherein the preliminary operation includes at
3 least electric conducting to an image pickup device.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): An electronic camera
2 comprising:

3 a plurality of detectors which are provided
4 corresponding to a position of a hand holding the camera
5 during an image pickup ~~respectively at different positions,~~
6 each of which detectors being adapted to detect contact or
7 approach of a hand;

8 a mode setup unit which sets up a stand-by mode in
9 which an image pickup device can commence an image pickup
10 operation immediately in response to a release instruction,
11 wherein the stand-by mode is set, a preliminary operation
12 for image pickup can be entered even if a shutter release
13 switch is not pressed; and

14 an image pickup controller which executes a
15 preliminary operation for image pickup if both the stand-by
16 mode is set by the mode setup unit, and at least one of the
17 plurality of detectors detects the contact or approach of a
18 hand, wherein the preliminary operation can commence even
19 if a shutter release switch is not pressed.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): A method for controlling an
2 electronic camera, comprising:

3 detecting contact or approach of a hand to a camera
4 body, by each of a plurality of detectors which are
5 provided corresponding to a position of a hand holding the
6 ~~respectively at different positions on the electronic~~
7 camera during an image pickup;

8 bringing an image pickup system including at least an
9 image pickup device into a stand-by state in which the
10 image pickup system can commence an image pickup operation
11 immediately in response to a release instruction, wherein
12 if the stand-by state mode is set, a preliminary operation
13 for image pickup can be entered even if a shutter release
14 switch is not pressed; and

15 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if
16 both, and all the plurality of detectors detect the contact
17 or approach of a hand, wherein the preliminary operation
18 can commence even if a shutter release switch is not
19 pressed.

1 Claim 11 (canceled)

1 Claim 12 (previously presented): A method according to
2 claim 11, wherein when detecting, if the image pickup
3 system is in the stand-by state and a part of the plurality
4 of detectors detects the contact or approach of a hand to
5 make an image pickup operation, another part of the
6 plurality of detectors that was previously non-operational,
7 starts a detection operation.

1 Claim 13 (previously presented): A method according to
2 claim 10, wherein the plurality of detectors are provided
3 at least at a grip part and a release button part of a
4 camera body.

1 Claim 14 (previously presented): A method according to
2 claim 10, further comprising writing a setup of the image
3 pickup system in the stand-by state into a non-volatile
4 memory if an input for turning off a power source is given.

1 Claim 15 (previously presented): A method according to
2 claim 10, further comprising releasing the stand-by state
3 when the stand-by state is set and a period in which at
4 least one of the plurality of detectors does not detect the
5 contact or approach of a hand reaches a predetermined time.

1 Claim 16 (original): A method according to claim 10,
2 wherein the preliminary operation includes at least
3 automatic exposure, automatic focus adjustment, and
4 automatic white balance adjustment.

1 Claim 17 (original): A method according to claim 10,
2 wherein the preliminary operation includes at least
3 electric conducting to the image pickup device.

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for controlling an
2 electronic camera, comprising:
3 detecting an approach of a hand to a release button by
4 a detector provided near the release button;
5 switching on and off a main power source of the
6 camera; and
7 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup so
8 that an image pickup operation can occur immediately in
9 response to a release instruction, if both the power switch
10 is set on and the detector detects the approach of a hand
11 wherein a preliminary operation for image pickup can

12 commence even if a shutter ~~to the~~ release switch is not
13 pressed button.

1 Claim 19 (original): A method according to claim 18,
2 wherein the preliminary operation includes at least
3 electric conducting to an image pickup device.

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): A method for controlling an
2 electronic camera, comprising:
3 detecting contact or approach of a hand to a camera
4 body using each of a plurality of detectors which are
5 provided corresponding to a position of a hand holding the
6 camera during image pickup ~~respectively at different~~
7 positions on the electronic camera;
8 bringing an image pickup system including at least an
9 image pickup device into a stand-by state in which the
10 image pickup system can commence an image pickup operation
11 immediately in response to a release instruction, wherein
12 if the stand-by mode is set, a preliminary operation for
13 image pickup ~~state~~ can be entered even if a shutter release
14 switch is not pressed; and
15 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if
16 both at least one of the plurality of detectors detects the
17 contact or approach of a hand, wherein the preliminary
18 operation can commence even if a shutter release switch is
19 not pressed.

1 Claim 21 (previously presented): The camera of claim 1
2 wherein at least one of the detectors is adapted to detect
3 an approach of a hand.

1 Claim 22 (previously presented): The camera of claim 9
2 wherein at least one of the detectors is adapted to detect
3 an approach of a hand.

1 Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 10
2 wherein the act of detecting detects an approach of a hand.

1 Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of claim 20
2 wherein the act of detecting detects an approach of a hand.

1 Claim 25 (previously presented): The camera of claim 1
2 wherein at least one of the detectors is a pyroelectric
3 sensor.

1 Claim 26 (previously presented): The camera of claim 1
2 wherein at least one of the detectors is a photosensor.

1 Claims 27 and 28 (canceled)

1 Claim 29 (previously presented): The camera of claim 9
2 wherein at least one of the detectors is a pyroelectric
3 sensor.

1 Claim 30 (previously presented): The camera of claim 9
2 wherein at least one of the detectors is a photosensor.

1 Claim 31 (currently amended): An electronic camera
2 comprising:
3 a plurality of detectors which are provided
4 respectively at different positions, each of which
5 detectors being adapted to detect contact or approach of a
6 hand to make an image pickup operation;

7 a mode setup unit which sets up a stand-by mode in
8 which an image pickup device can commence an image pickup
9 operation immediately in response to a release instruction,
10 wherein the stand-by mode can be entered even if a shutter
11 release switch is not pressed; and
12 an image pickup controller which controls the camera
13 to perform a preliminary operation for image pickup if both
14 the stand-by mode is set by the mode setup unit all of the
15 plurality of detectors detect the contact or approach of a
16 hand,
17 ~~The camera of claim 1~~ wherein, initially, a first one of
18 the detectors is rendered operational while a second one of
19 the detectors is rendered non-operational until a contact
20 or approach of a hand is sensed by the first one of the
21 detectors, at which time the second one of the detectors is
22 rendered operational.

1 Claim 32 (canceled)

1 Claim 33 (currently amended): An electronic camera
2 comprising:
3 a plurality of detectors which are provided
4 respectively at different positions, each of which
5 detectors being adapted to detect contact or approach of a
6 hand;
7 a mode setup unit which sets up a stand-by mode in
8 which an image pickup device can commence an image pickup
9 operation immediately in response to a release instruction,
10 wherein the stand-by mode can be entered even if a shutter
11 release switch is not pressed; and
12 an image pickup controller which executes a
13 preliminary operation for image pickup if both the stand-by

14 mode is set by the mode setup unit, and at least one of the
15 plurality of detectors detects the contact or approach of a
16 hand,

17 ~~The camera of claim 9~~ wherein, initially, a first one of
18 the detectors is rendered operational while a second one of
19 the detectors is rendered non-operational until a contact
20 or approach of a hand is sensed by the first one of the
21 detectors, at which time the second one of the detectors is
22 rendered operational.